

said replacement consumable at a manufacturer, generating an identification number for the replacement consumable conforming to said generated code word.

[Claim 2 has been amended as follows:]

2. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein step (d) comprises designating said generated code word on a carrier and permanently affixing said carrier to said authorized replacement consumable.

[Claim 3 has been amended as follows:]

3. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein step (d) comprises applying said generated code word on said authorized replacement consumable as a marking.

[Claim 4 has been amended as follows:]

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein step (d) comprises selecting a technique for aggregating said authorized replacement consumable with said generated code word dependent on a physical nature of said authorized replacement consumable.

[Cancel claim 5.]

Please add the following new claim:

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a2  
22. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein step (d) comprises storing said identification number conforming to said generating code word in an electronically readable chip and permanently associating said chip with said authorized replacement consumable, and wherein step (f) includes inserting said replacement consumable in said device and reading said code word aggregated therewith from said electronically readable chip.

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